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The Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) reauthorization legislation, currently being considered by the U.S. Congress, will result in major changes in the way that LSCA funding is administered and distributed by the Department of State Library Services (DSLS). Before discussing these changes, however, it is necessary to define several terms used in connection with the LSCA:

**Basic State Plan:** the agreement between the U.S. Department of Education and DSLS in which the Department agrees to administer LSCA funding in accordance with the LSCA Act, Rules, and Regulations;

**Long Range Plan:** the five year program describing the library needs in Rhode Island and the goals and objectives that DSLS will pursue over the designated period to meet those needs;

**Annual Program:** a description of the projects that will be undertaken during a specific year toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Long Range Plan;

**State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACOL):** the advisory group appointed by the Director of DSLS; it represents public, school, academic, special, and institutional libraries and users of these libraries and its members advise DSLS on the administration of LSCA funding;
Rural: places under 2,500 population except those in urbanized areas;

Urban: places of 2,500 population and over;

Major Urban Resource Library: any public library located in a city having a population of 100,000 or more people;

Title I - Grants to States for Library Services: LSCA title providing funding for public library projects;

Title II - Public Library Construction: LSCA title providing funding for public library construction projects;

Title III - Interlibrary Cooperation and Resource Sharing: LSCA title providing funding for resource sharing projects developed by public, school, academic, or special libraries;

The proposed reauthorization of LSCA changes the thrust of the way in which states may use LSCA funding. Under the old law, states were permitted to use LSCA funding to strengthen library services in geographical areas. This allowed DSLS to attach LSCA Title I funds to ongoing state grant-in-aid funding to public libraries in cities and towns, to regional library centers, and to the Principal Public Library. This melding of federal and state funding, however, is no longer possible based on the fact that the proposed reauthorization eliminates the possibility of using Title I money for projects which provide funding for the general, ongoing activities of public libraries. For most states, this provision will have no effect on disbursement of federal funding because they have never made federal money a part of any existing state aid allotment programs. In Rhode Island, however, recipients of state grant-in-aid funds are faced with losing the federal portion of these allotments. The money will still be available but it will be made available in a much different fashion, one that emphasizes funding for very specific purposes.

Title I of the proposed LSCA reauthorization now provides for the funding of projects targeted toward least served populations. Its specified priorities are listed as:

- Services to the Limited English-Speaking
- Services to the Handicapped
- Services to the Institutionalized
- Services to the Least Served Populations in Urban and Rural Areas
- Services to the Elderly
- Services to Combat Illiteracy
- Projects that Increase Services & Access to Services through the Use of Technology
- Services to the Disadvantaged
- Projects that Assist Libraries to Serve as Community Information Referral Centers
- Strengthening State Library Agencies
- Strengthening Major Urban Resource Libraries

To receive LSCA funding under the proposed new law, Rhode Island public libraries will have to develop proposals which address one of the above-listed
priorities. Those libraries receiving LSCA funds also will have to maintain accounts for federal funds that are separate from those for state and local dollars. In addition, federal funds will have to be audited separately from state funds. In developing the method for applying for federal money, DSLS is going to attempt to make the process as simple as possible for applicants.

Title III of the proposed LSCA reauthorization (Interlibrary Cooperation and Resource Sharing) also has new ramifications. It is much broader than Title III of the old LSCA and has a much greater emphasis on networking. Specifically, the reauthorization mandates that each state shall develop a statewide resource sharing plan which includes:

- Criteria for Participation
- Analysis of Needs for Development & Maintenance of Network Communication Systems
- Analysis of Needs for Development and Maintenance of Bibliographic Access
- Analysis of Needs for Development and Maintenance of Delivery Systems
- Projection of Computer and Other Technological Needs for Resource Sharing
- Identification of Means for Users to Have Access to Library Resources
- Proposal for Development, Establishment, Demonstrations and Maintenance of Intrastate Multitype Library Systems
- Links to National Resource Sharing Systems

The State Advisory Council on Libraries has appointed a Task Force, chaired by Jean Nash (Director, West Warwick PL), to identify and recommend to SACOL which LSCA priorities should be ranked highest in Rhode Island in 1985 and to suggest targeted needs, based on these priorities, which individual projects should address. The Task Force has scheduled a meeting on July 2nd at Cranston Public Library at 7:30 p.m. to hear suggestions and comments from the Rhode Island Library community and the general public. Those unable to attend this meeting can send comments to: Jean Nash, West Warwick Public Library, 1063 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 02893. SACOL will then make recommendations to DSLS based upon the input of the Task Force.

DSLS APPROPRIATIONS BILL IS PASSED

The Rhode Island General Assembly recently authorized an $89,000 addition to the DSLS budget that provides for a 5% increase in the various state library grant-in-aid programs. This increase makes up for a small portion of the LSCA funds that have to be removed from the state aid programs. Congratulations are in order to the Rhode Island Library Association and all members of the library community who worked in behalf of this legislation for a job well done.

DSLS NEWS NOTES

Planning Committee Named: A 44-member planning committee was recently formed to begin work on the DSLS five-year long range plan. A complete list of the members of this committee is attached to this newsletter.

DSLS Director Elected to ASCLA Post: Fay Zipkowitz, DSLS Director, was recently elected Vice-Chairperson of the Multitype Library Cooperation Section of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies.